

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-05
IO-13 EUR-12 HA-05 AF-10 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5569
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CE, LY
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS LIBYA

1. SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL KADIR HAMEED VISITED
LIBYA JUNE 5-10 ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AS GUEST OF FOREIGN
SECRETARY ALI ABD AL-SALAM AL-TURAYKI. HE ALSO HELD TALKS
WITH LIBYAN TREASURY SECRETARY MUHAMMAD AL-ZARRUQ RAJAB ON
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND BILATERAL COOPERATION.

2. THE PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING HAMEED'S DEPARTURE
EMPHASIZED THE SUPPORT BY THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR THE PALESTINIAN
CAUSE, DENOUNCED THE "ZIONIST" OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON
WHICH "REFLECTS THE AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE RACIST REGIME
IN THE OCCUPIED LANDS," AND EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR
"LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE TWO SIDES
ALSO AGREED ON THE NEED FOR AFRICAN PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY
AFRICANS. ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES, BOTH COUNTRIES DECLARED
THEIR FULL ADHERENCE TO THE UN RESOLUTION WHICH SAYS
THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE AN AREA OF PEACE AND
SECURITY. THEY ALSO AGREED "TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK OF
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COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION IN THE FUTURE CONFERENCES
OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP."

3. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, IT WAS AGREED THAT A DELEGATION
FROM LIBYA WOULD VISIT SRI LANKA TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY
OF PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND BANKING PROJECTS
WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FREE ZONE.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED MEANS OF FOSTERING BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. SRI LANKA EXPRESSED ITS READINESS TO PROVIDE MANPOWER TO LIBYA, AND LIBYA EXPRESSED ITS READINESS TO HELP ESTABLISH A PROJECT FOR TRAINING PEOPLE "CHOOSING" TO WORK IN LIBYA. INVITATIONS WERE EXTENDED TO BOTH TURAYKI AND RAJAB TO VISIT SRI LANKA. THEY WERE "WARMLY ACCEPTED."

4. COMMENT. KEY LIBYAN LEADERS, QADHAFI AND JALUD, WERE FIRST ABROAD AND LATER INVOLVED IN DOMESTIC MATTERS AND WERE UNABLE TO MEET WITH HAMEED. NONETHELESS, HE WOULD NOT HAVE OBTAINED ANY FIRMER PLEDGES OF ASSISTANCE THAN HE RECEIVED FROM TURAYKI AND RAJAB. THERE IS LITTLE ALTRUISM IN LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND SRI LANKA WILL HAVE TO PAY THE POLITICAL PRICE -- PARTICULARLY AT NON-ALIGNED GATHERINGS -- TO GARNER ANY SIGNIFICANT LIBYAN AID AND/OR INVESTMENTS.
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